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United Nations

Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group

2008 substantive session (10 March-4 April and 3 July 2008)

General Assembly
Official Records
Sixty-second Session
Supplement No. 19

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Note

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Chapter I
Introduction

1. By its resolution 61/291, the General Assembly welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;[1] decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and should review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in that field; and requested the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the Assembly at its sixty-second session.

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/61/19/Rev.1).

Chapter II
Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

2. The Special Committee held its 2008 session at United Nations Headquarters from 10 March to 4 April and on 3 July 2008 and held five formal meetings.

3. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations. At the 201st (opening) meeting, on 10 March, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and the Officer-in-Charge of the Department of Field Support delivered statements.

4. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support provided support to the Special Committee on substantive issues, while the Disarmament and Peace Affairs Branch of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management served as the technical secretariat of the Special Committee.

B. Election of officers

5. At its 201st meeting, the Special Committee elected its officers by acclamation as follows:

Chairperson:
Felix Ani Aniokoye (Nigeria)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Diego Limeres (Argentina)
Henri-Paul Normandin (Canada)
Akio Miyajima (Japan)
Zbigniew Szlek (Poland)

Rapporteur:
Amr El-Sherbini (Egypt)

6. At its 205th meeting, on 3 July, the Special Committee elected by acclamation U. Joy Ogwu (Nigeria) as its Chairperson.

C. Agenda

7. At its 201st meeting, the Special Committee adopted the provisional agenda (A/AC.121/2008/L.1), which read:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Organization of work.
5. General debate.
6. Briefings by the Secretariat.

7. Consideration of the draft report of the Working Group.

8. Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session.

9. Other matters.

D. Organization of work

8. Also at its 201st meeting, the Special Committee decided to establish an open-ended working group, to be chaired by Henri-Paul Normandin (Canada), to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Special Committee by the General Assembly.

9. The composition of the Special Committee at its 2008 session is contained in the annex to the present report. The list of participants at the session is contained in documents A/AC.121/2008/INF/2/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1. The list of documents for the session is contained in document A/AC.121/2008/INF/3.

E. Proceedings of the Committee

10. At its 201st to 204th meetings, on 10 and 11 March, the Committee held a general debate on the matters presented in the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee (A/62/627 and Add.1).

11. In the course of the session, the Secretariat provided informal briefings to the Working Group on the following topics: restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, security sector reform, welfare and recreation, safety and security, fatalities, United Nations policing, strengthening of the Office of Military Affairs, enhanced rapidly deployable capacities and recruitment issues.

12. The Working Group held 26 meetings, from 12 March to 4 April and on 3 July, and concluded its work on the draft recommendations.

Chapter III
Consideration of the draft report of the Working Group

13. At its 205th meeting, on 3 July, the Committee considered the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Working Group and decided to include them in the present report (see paras. 15-199 below) for consideration by the General Assembly.

Chapter IV

Adoption of the report to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session

14. At its 205th meeting, on 3 July, the Committee adopted its draft report to the General Assembly (A/AC.121/2008/L.2/Rev.1), as orally revised. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, made some farewell remarks. The Head of the Department of Field Support, Susana Malcorra, addressed the Committee.

Chapter V
Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

A. Introduction

15. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in making its recommendations, reaffirms the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

16. The Special Committee reaffirms that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and affirms that United Nations peacekeeping is one of the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging that responsibility. The Special Committee, as the only United Nations forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct United Nations peacekeeping operations, is uniquely able to make a significant contribution in the area of issues and policy relating to United Nations peacekeeping operations. It encourages other United Nations bodies, funds and programmes to avail themselves of the Special Committee's particular perspective on United Nations peacekeeping operations.

17. The Special Committee pays tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage. Particular tribute is due to those who have given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security.

18. Noting the sustained surge in United Nations peacekeeping efforts in various parts of the world, which requires the participation of Member States in various activities, the Special Committee considers it essential for the United Nations to be able to effectively maintain international peace and security. This calls for, inter alia, an improved capacity to assess conflict situations, effective planning and management of United Nations peacekeeping operations and quick and effective responses to any Security Council mandate.

19. The Special Committee notes that in recent years the number of complex peacekeeping operations has increased and, as a consequence, the Security Council has mandated peacekeeping operations that have included, in addition to the traditional tasks of monitoring and reporting, a number of other activities. In that regard, the Special Committee stresses the importance of an effective Department of Peacekeeping Operations that is efficiently structured and adequately staffed.

20. The Special Committee stresses the importance of consistently applying the principles and standards it has set forth for the establishment and conduct of United Nations peacekeeping operations, and emphasizes the need to continue to consider those principles, as well as definitions of peacekeeping, in a systematic fashion. New proposals or conditions concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations should be discussed in the Special Committee.

21. The Special Committee recalls that United Nations peacekeeping is conducted in accordance with the relevant chapters of the Charter of the United Nations. In this regard, nothing in the present report circumscribes the mandates and authority of the Security Council to maintain or restore international peace and security.

B. Guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates

22. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter. It emphasizes that respect for the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State is crucial to common efforts, including peacekeeping operations, to promote international peace and security.

23. The Special Committee believes that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence and in the defence of a mandate authorized by the Security Council, is essential to its success.

24. The Special Committee recognizes that peacekeeping operations have become more complex and as such a common understanding of terminology is required in order to promote common approaches and cooperation.

25. The Special Committee is of the view that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Those causes should be addressed in a coherent, well-planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner, using political, social and developmental instruments. Consideration should be given to ways in which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of a peacekeeping operation, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security and development.

26. The Special Committee stresses that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, pursuant to Article 24 of the Charter. The Special Committee notes the statements by the President of the Security Council of 29 December 1998 (S/PRST/1998/38) and 20 February 2001 (S/PRST/2001/5) with regard to the inclusion, as appropriate, of peacebuilding elements in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, with a view to ensuring a smooth transition to a successful post-conflict phase. The Special Committee stresses the importance of those elements being explicitly defined and clearly identified before being incorporated into the mandates of peacekeeping operations, whenever appropriate. The Special Committee emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in the formulation of post-conflict peacebuilding activities.

27. The Special Committee continues to stress the importance of peacekeeping operations being provided with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, adequate resources based on a realistic assessment of the situation and secure financing, in support of efforts to achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts. It also stresses the need to ensure, in the formulation and implementation of mandates, adequate resources and congruity between mandates, resources and realizable objectives. The Special Committee emphasizes that, when changes are made to an existing mandate, commensurate changes should be made in the resources available to a peacekeeping operation to carry out its new mandate. Changes in the mandate of an ongoing mission should be based on a thorough and timely reassessment by the Security Council in consultation with troop-contributing countries through the mechanisms prescribed in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) of 13 June 2001 and the note by the President of the Security Council dated 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56).

28. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure the unity of command of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It recalls that the overall political direction and control of United Nations peacekeeping operations are within the purview of the Security Council.

C. Restructuring of peacekeeping

29. The Special Committee takes note of the restructuring of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and establishment of the Department of Field Support, acknowledges the ongoing implementation process and calls upon the Secretariat to fully implement General Assembly resolution 61/279 in a timely manner. The Special Committee recalls paragraph 67 of General Assembly resolution 61/279 and looks forward to considering the Secretary-General's comprehensive report at its 2009 substantive session.

30. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of preserving unity of command in missions at all levels as well as coherence in policy and strategy and clear command structures in the field and up to and including at Headquarters.

31. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to ensure a clear chain of command, accountability, coordination and maintenance of an adequate system of checks and balances.

32. The Special Committee recognizes the intended role of integrated operational teams in facilitating the horizontal coordination and integration of the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. The Special Committee acknowledges the work being done to develop the terms of reference for the integrated operational teams. The Special Committee calls for the establishment of these teams in full compliance with General Assembly resolution 61/279.

33. The Special Committee takes note of the establishment of the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions and looks forward to its effective performance.

34. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to work in a coordinated manner to provide effective leadership and support to United Nations peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee also requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to work in a coordinated manner in their relationship with Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries.

35. The Special Committee recommends urgent action to fill all posts, particularly those at senior management level, in accordance with the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 61/279.

D. Safety and security

36. The Special Committee is gravely concerned about the precarious security environment prevailing in many peacekeeping missions and, in that context, calls upon the Secretariat to give the utmost priority to enhancing the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel in the field. It condemns in the strongest terms the killing of United Nations peacekeeping personnel and all acts of violence

including targeted attacks against United Nations personnel and recognizes that they constitute a major challenge to United Nations field operations. The Special Committee also condemns in the strongest terms any breaches of security with regard to United Nations and contingent-owned property, as well as restrictions on the freedom of movement of United Nations peacekeeping personnel acting within the mandate, in particular restrictions on medical evacuation.

37. The Special Committee pays tribute to the courage and dedication of personnel working in United Nations peacekeeping operations and to those who have lost their lives in the service of peace.

38. The Special Committee urges those States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel.[2] The Special Committee welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/42 of 8 December 2005, of the Optional Protocol extending the reach of the Convention. The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 58/82 of 9 December 2003, in particular its recommendation that key provisions of the Convention, including those regarding the prevention of attacks against members of the operation, the establishment of such attacks as crimes punishable by law and the prosecution or extradition of offenders, be included in status-of-forces, status-of-mission and host country agreements negotiated between the United Nations and host countries.

39. Even though the new risk assessment process and increased capacity for collection and analysis of field information and its dissemination reduce risks, the Special Committee continues to advocate that the best assurance against such risks is a properly planned and mandated mission, encompassing well-trained, equipped and disciplined contingents that are deployed in the context of an ongoing political process.

40. The Special Committee reiterates its request regarding the involvement of Member States in United Nations boards of inquiry, except for misconduct cases, where relevant memorandums of understanding will apply, and its request to allow national boards of inquiry to interview United Nations Headquarters and mission staff as part of their own investigations, and requests the Secretariat to report thereon to the Special Committee at its 2009 substantive session.

41. The Special Committee urges the expeditious completion of United Nations boards of inquiry to ascertain the circumstances and responsibilities related to death and disability.

42. The Special Committee requests that, in future, when there is any incident in a peacekeeping mission that negatively impacts on operational effectiveness or results in serious injury to or the death of United Nations peacekeeping personnel, constant communication with concerned Member States be initiated from the very outset and maintained through to the conclusion of the investigation of the incident. The Special Committee urges that the findings of boards of inquiry on serious injury or death be immediately shared with the concerned Member States, including troop-contributing countries, as appropriate, and that lessons learned from such incidents, and field-risk assessments, be shared with all Member States.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2051, No. 35457.

43. The Special Committee believes that the liaison arrangements of United Nations field operations, which are to maintain contact with the parties concerned, should be improved at appropriate levels, especially tactical and operational levels in the field, so as to establish effective immediate responses to safety and security issues as required.

44. The Special Committee notes with concern that some deployed troop formations are being stretched to cover geographic areas that exceed their capacities. Such practices not only threaten the safety and security of these troops, but also adversely affect their performance, discipline and command and control. In this regard, the Special Committee calls upon the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping personnel are deployed in accordance with agreed concepts of operation and deployment arrangements.

45. The Special Committee stresses that there needs to be accountability at all levels for effective and efficient deployment and further employment of United Nations peacekeeping personnel in peacekeeping operations, particularly in hostile and hazardous conditions.

46. The Special Committee notes that peacekeeping operations should be adequately manned to ensure within their mandates the safety and security of United Nations personnel. The Special Committee expresses its concern over the quality of local security personnel being facilitated by the Department of Safety and Security and the Field Procurement Section of the Department of Management for peacekeeping operations and the possible impact that it may have on the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel. The Special Committee reiterates its request to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Safety and Security to work together to improve the quality of the local security personnel employed and to present a thorough policy for screening and verification before hiring which includes, inter alia, the criminal and human rights violations of the candidates, as well as links to security companies.

47. The Special Committee reiterates its request that clear guidelines and procedures be put in place to facilitate information-sharing regarding safety and security issues as well as security management in peacekeeping operations.

48. The Special Committee underlines the importance of assuring that all individual military and police officers deployed in United Nations peacekeeping missions are under United Nations security arrangements, including, as applicable, the United Nations security management system. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to report on steps taken to address this issue and urges the development and implementation of appropriate security arrangements as a matter of priority.

49. The Special Committee reiterates its request that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in cooperation with the Department of Safety and Security, develop an effective mechanism for undertaking periodic risk analyses in peacekeeping missions and at headquarters, to be conducted at every stage, especially prior to the establishment of a mission. This mechanism should include an integrated system of benchmarks to determine a security level for each mission, which should apply to all personnel and be shared with the troop-contributing countries.

50. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to present a progress report to it before its 2009 substantive session on the use of advanced monitoring and surveillance technologies in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee continues to request the Secretariat to develop appropriate modalities for the use of advanced monitoring and surveillance technologies with due attention to legal, operational, technical and financial considerations as well as the consent of the countries concerned with regard to their application in the field.

51. The Special Committee welcomes steps taken by the Secretariat to analyse the factors and the circumstances that have contributed to all types of fatalities of United Nations peacekeeping personnel in the field. The Special Committee recommends that the Secretariat improve the collection and processing of data from the field missions, which could allow more thorough and detailed analysis of all types of fatalities and serious injuries of United Nations peacekeeping personnel in the field, and provide a report annually to Member States.

52. The Special Committee stresses the need for the Secretariat to improve relevant policies and procedures to enhance the existing mechanism to manage crisis situations in peacekeeping operations in a well-coordinated and effective manner.

53. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to develop security procedures with regard to setting up United Nations positions in peacekeeping missions.

E. Conduct and discipline

54. The Special Committee reaffirms the need to ensure that all personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations function in a manner that preserves the image, credibility, impartiality and integrity of the United Nations. The Special Committee emphasizes that misconduct is unacceptable and has a detrimental effect on the fulfilment of mandates, in particular with respect to the relations between United Nations peacekeeping personnel and the population of host countries. The prevention of any acts of misconduct and the maintenance of discipline of United Nations peacekeeping personnel is a responsibility of managers and commanders at all levels of United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee emphasizes that the leadership of managers and commanders is vital in the prevention of misconduct.

55. The Special Committee re-emphasizes the principle that the same standards of conduct must be applied to all categories of United Nations peacekeeping personnel without exception. Violations of these standards will result in appropriate action within the authority of the Secretary-General, while criminal and disciplinary responsibility in respect of members of national contingents depends on the national law of the Member State.

56. The Special Committee reiterates that troop- and police-contributing countries bear the primary responsibility for maintaining discipline among their contingents deployed in peacekeeping missions.

57. The Special Committee affirms that any kind of misconduct by peacekeeping personnel is detrimental to the missions and to the image of the Organization, and has adverse effects on the population of the host countries. The Special Committee affirms that all peacekeeping personnel must adhere to all applicable rules,

regulations, provisions and guidelines provided by the United Nations for peacekeepers, as well as to national laws and regulations. All acts of misconduct should be investigated and punished in accordance with due process of law as well as with memorandums of understanding that have been concluded between the United Nations and member States.

58. The Special Committee requests that the United Nations take appropriate measures to prevent unsubstantiated allegations of misconduct from damaging the credibility of any United Nations peacekeeping missions or troop-contributing country or United Nations peacekeeping personnel. The Special Committee requests that the United Nations ensure that steps are taken to restore the image and credibility of any United Nations peacekeeping mission or troop-contributing country or United Nations peacekeeping personnel when allegations of misconduct are ultimately found to be legally unproven.

59. The Special Committee welcomes the finalization of work on the revised model memorandum of understanding and urges its expeditious implementation. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to proceed with this implementation in respect of existing as well as new memorandums of understanding.

60. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the conduct and discipline teams at United Nations headquarters and in the field.

61. The Special Committee takes note of the Secretary-General's report on strengthening investigations (A/62/582) and looks forward to the outcome of the General Assembly deliberations on it.

62. The Special Committee reiterates that the responsibility for creating and maintaining an environment that prevents sexual exploitation and abuse should be part of the performance objectives of managers and commanders involved in United Nations peacekeeping operations, and that failure to implement all or parts of those objectives should be reflected in the performance appraisals of the managers and commanders concerned. The Special Committee encourages managers and commanders to continue to facilitate the investigations within their existing responsibilities. The Special Committee emphasizes that those who fail to meet managerial and command objectives in this regard must be held accountable. The Special Committee encourages Member States and the Secretariat, including the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to address the issues of accountability within their respective purviews.

63. The Special Committee calls on the United Nations to continue to implement its policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Underlining the importance of eliminating all forms of misconduct, the Special Committee remains concerned about new cases of misconduct reported, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and about the number of outstanding allegations still awaiting investigation, and encourages continued efforts to address this backlog, in accordance, where applicable, with the provisions of the new model memorandum of understanding. The Special Committee welcomes progress made towards the elimination and prevention of misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse. The Special Committee notes that the Office of Internal Oversight Services reports a decrease in the number of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse it has received (see A/62/281 (Part II), sect. II.C), and

suggests that in the future it would be useful for such data to be disaggregated according to the type of serious misconduct alleged.

64. The Special Committee welcomes the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 62/214 containing the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel. The Special Committee looks forward to its early implementation.

65. The Special Committee takes note of the Secretary-General's report on the comprehensive review of the welfare and recreation needs of all categories of peacekeeping personnel (A/62/663). The Special Committee requests a further comprehensive report on welfare and recreation, detailing all the implications of the proposals made, for consideration by the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly at its sixty-third session. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of welfare and recreation for the personnel serving in peacekeeping operations, including non-contingent personnel, bearing in mind that welfare and recreation also contribute to strengthening morale and discipline. In this regard, the Special Committee acknowledges the work done on welfare and recreation in the 2008 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment. The Special Committee reaffirms the important role of troop- and police-contributing countries in the welfare and recreation of contingent personnel.

66. The Special Committee believes that the provision of facilities related to welfare and recreation should be adequately prioritized during the establishment of peacekeeping missions.

67. The Special Committee expresses its concerns at the delays experienced in housing peacekeeping personnel in appropriate accommodation that provides adequate protection against the elements in all missions, and requests the Secretariat to take the necessary measures to improve the situation pursuant to the Contingent-Owned Equipment Manual.

F. Strengthening operational capacity

1. General

68. The Special Committee believes that Member States should continue to ensure that United Nations peacekeeping is provided from the outset with political support, adequate human, financial and logistical resources and information capacity and a clear, realistic and achievable mandate.

69. The Special Committee is of the opinion that there should be adequate capabilities and clear and appropriate guidelines for peacekeeping missions so that they are able to carry out all their mandated tasks.

2. Military capacities

70. The Special Committee welcomes the establishment of the post of the Military Adviser at the level of Assistant Secretary-General, and requests the Secretary-General to appoint the Military Adviser urgently. The Special Committee underscores the vital importance of the military function within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and requests that the Secretary-General ensure that it is

appropriately and adequately staffed and structured to carry out its functions in order to meet the requirements of peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee stresses the importance of considering this matter in conjunction with reviews of the whole organization of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, in order to avoid duplication and waste and to maximize their capacity.

71. The Special Committee takes note, along with the overall staffing requirements of the Office of Military Affairs, of the need for a capacity to provide a timely, accurate and detailed analysis of the situation in the areas of peacekeeping operations, in close coordination with the field missions, troop-contributing countries and host countries.

72. The Special Committee urges transparency in the recruitment of staff for senior positions in the Office of Military Affairs and requests that Member States be kept informed of the progress in recruitment in a timely manner. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of recruiting qualified personnel in a timely manner.

73. The Special Committee recognizes the need for the Chief of Staff of the Office of Military Affairs to be at an appropriate grade to enable him or her to direct the work of the branch chiefs.

74. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to study and review, in consultation with troop-contributing countries, the requirements for the generation of military police units and personnel coming from the countries which provide troops to a particular mission.

3. United Nations police capacities

75. The Special Committee takes note of the incorporation of the Police Division in the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions, and reaffirms its support for the inclusion of the Police Adviser as a permanent member of the senior management team of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and with direct access to the Under-Secretary-General of the Department on strategic and operational policing matters.

76. The Special Committee underscores the vital importance of the police function within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and notes the rapid expansion of the policing functions in the field. The Special Committee recognizes the need for the Police Division to be adequately staffed to carry out its function and for this matter to be considered in conjunction with the review of the whole organization of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

77. The Special Committee looks forward to receiving no later than July 2008 the report on the comprehensive review of all aspects of the Standing Police Capacity's first year of operation.

78. The Special Committee takes note of the intention of the Secretariat to relocate the Standing Police Capacity to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, and looks forward to the consideration of this matter by the Fifth Committee according to established procedures.

79. The Special Committee recognizes the need to recruit qualified personnel for police components of United Nations peacekeeping operations and encourages the

Secretariat to improve procedures and guidance, in close cooperation with contributing countries, for timely and effective recruitment.

4. Rapid deployment

80. The Special Committee recommends that, in order to overcome the contingent-owned equipment and sustainability shortfalls faced by some troop-contributing countries, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support continue to facilitate various enabling arrangements, including through other Member States and bilateral arrangements.

81. The Special Committee reaffirms the need for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities for United Nations peacekeeping missions in crisis and encourages Member States where possible to offer support in accordance with their national laws and regulations. The Special Committee decides to reconvene its informal open-ended working group on enhanced rapidly deployable capacities to prepare, assisted by the Secretariat where necessary, a comprehensive report on feasible options for enhanced rapidly deployable capacities for consideration by the Special Committee at its next substantive session.

5. Integrated planning

82. The Special Committee reiterates the need for the full implementation of the integrated mission planning process and calls for periodic briefings by the Secretariat on the current status of the implementation at appropriate moments. The integrated mission planning process guidelines should be completed as quickly as possible.

83. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to designate, within the existing posts an appropriate high-ranking official, to oversee the integrated mission planning process within the Secretariat and to galvanize all relevant Departments and steer the process in order to ensure that this key tool is properly utilized.

6. Mission leadership

84. The Special Committee reiterates the need for the Secretariat to identify qualified candidates from troop-contributing countries for senior mission leadership posts.

7. Strengthening United Nations Headquarters

85. The Special Committee takes note of the change in subordination of the Situation Centre and looks forward to its effective functioning in this realignment.

86. The Special Committee recognizes that several divisions and sections of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support, specifically the Logistics Support Division, Situation Centre, Mine Action Service, Peacekeeping Best Practices Section, Conduct and Discipline Unit and Communication and Information Services, may need seconded military and police expertise, as appropriate, to increase efficiency and improve communication and understanding between the Secretariat, troop-contributing countries and the field missions.

8. Doctrine and terminology

87. The Special Committee takes note of the internal Secretariat publication entitled "United Nations peacekeeping operations: principles and guidelines", bearing in mind that it does not create legal obligations for Member States or their contingents. The Special Committee takes note of the efforts of the Secretariat in undertaking consultations during its development. Considering that it is a living document, the Special Committee believes that further work on the publication should take duly into account the views of Member States, best practices and lessons learned in the field and be done in an inclusive and transparent manner.

88. The Special Committee recognizes that peacekeeping operations have become more complex and broader in scope and that, as such, a common understanding of doctrine and terminology is required in order to promote clarity, common approaches and cooperation.

G. Strategies for complex peacekeeping operations

1. General

89. The Special Committee stresses that sustainable progress on security, national reconciliation and development need to occur in parallel, given the interconnected nature of those challenges in countries emerging from conflicts.

90. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations need to be complemented with activities aimed at effectively improving the living conditions of the affected populations, including quick implementation of highly effective and visible projects that help create jobs and deliver basic social services in the post-conflict phase.

91. The Special Committee stresses that the United Nations system and the international community, in particular donor countries, in cooperation with national authorities, should develop and engage in coordination systems, which should focus on immediate needs as well as long-term reconstruction and poverty reduction. The Special Committee recognizes that better coordination with United Nations country teams and the various development actors is of paramount importance to ensure greater efficiency in development efforts and address urgent development problems.

92. The Special Committee reiterates that there is no one-size-fits-all model for multidimensional peacekeeping operations and that each mission should take into account the needs of the country concerned.

2. Peacebuilding issues and the Peacebuilding Commission

93. The Special Committee reaffirms the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to plan and conduct United Nations peacekeeping activities in such a manner as to facilitate post-conflict peacebuilding, the prevention of recurrence of armed conflicts and progress towards sustainable peace and development. The Special Committee underlines the importance of effective coordination between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Peacebuilding Support Office, United Nations funds, programmes and agencies and non-United Nations partners in peacebuilding efforts. The Special Committee emphasizes the need for a coherent and coordinated approach, building on the respective strengths of various actors,

including relevant United Nations principal organs and bodies, in peacebuilding efforts. The Special Committee stresses the contribution of the Peacebuilding Commission at the strategic level while noting that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is in the lead on all operational matters related to the planning and conduct of integrated peacekeeping operations.

94. The Special Committee underlines the need to formulate peacebuilding strategies and programmes that are integrated with host-nation strategies and programmes to ensure national ownership.

95. The Special Committee recommends that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, taking into account the work of relevant United Nations bodies such as the Peacebuilding Commission as well as the Peacebuilding Support Office, further explore opportunities for partnerships in post-conflict situations with international financial institutions, such as the World Banl and the International Monetary Fund, as well as regional arrangements, such as the European Union, with a view to establishing effective cooperation.

96. The Special Committee underlines the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in particular in developing, in consultation with national Governments, integrated peacebuilding strategies and marshalling resources for their implementation, as well as its efforts to ensure fulfilment of mutual commitments on the part of all relevant stakeholders and promote dialogue on cross-cutting peacebuilding issues and lessons learned from past experiences.

97. The Special Committee notes with appreciation the substantial assistance that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and peacekeeping missions have provided to the Peacebuilding Commission and the Peacebuilding Support Office in the preparation of their meetings and work. The Special Committee welcomes the establishment of inter-agency coordination mechanisms to ensure coordination among all United Nations actors involved in peacebuilding. It encourages regular exchange and interaction among United Nations partners and with Member States to increase the sharing of knowledge and best practices on all issues related to peacebuilding.

98. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure that lessons learned from experiences gained in the transition from United Nations peacekeeping operations to integrated offices are applied elsewhere.

3. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR)

99. The Special Committee stresses that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are crucial components of peace processes and peacekeeping operations, and that their success depends on the political will and concerted effort of all parties. The Special Committee reiterates the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to design and implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in partnership with the national Government, other United Nations actors, the World Bank, donors, regional arrangements and non-governmental organizations.

100. The Special Committee recognizes the need to take a conflict-sensitive approach when carrying out disarmament, demobilization and reintegration activities, taking into account the underlying causes of conflict. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure that

disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are tailored to the specific context, are carried out within a broad peacebuilding strategy including institution-building, and are consistent with the host country's national strategies.

101. The Special Committee requests that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, together with other United Nations partners, ensure that all new disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes are developed in line with the integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards. The Special Committee takes note of the efforts that the Secretariat is making in the provision of support and guidance to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in the field and in the piloting of integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration units, with the intention of reviewing lessons learned from these units. The Special Committee requests a briefing on progress made on the implementation of integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards and programmes as well as the activities of the inter-agency working group on these issues.

102. The Special Committee recognizes that the reintegration of ex-combatants is especially challenging and should be planned from the outset in conjunction with disarmament and demobilization programmes as well as the wider socio-economic development and job creation in the country. The Special Committee encourages the inter-agency working group to further develop integrated disarmament, demobilization and reintegration standards on assessment, planning and the implementation of social and economic reintegration programmes. The Special Committee calls upon the donor community to provide long-term, timely and sustained support to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, ensuring that sufficient funds are allocated to the entire process from the beginning.

103. The Special Committee stresses the importance of ensuring that all women and children associated with armed forces and groups are systematically included in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, taking into account their specific needs and rights, especially those of girls, with a particular emphasis on reintegration and education. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of including special measures in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes to ensure the early release of children from armed groups and to prevent their re-recruitment.

4. Security sector reform

104. The Special Committee emphasizes that security sector reform is an important aspect of multidimensional peacekeeping operations. The establishment of an effective, professional and accountable security sector is one of the critical elements in the transition from United Nations peacekeeping to sustainable peace and development, including economic recovery.

105. The Special Committee recognizes that security sector reform is a nationally owned process. The engagement of the United Nations in providing assistance for security sector reform through peacekeeping missions should be undertaken at the request of the host country. The Special Committee recognizes that security sector reform in post-conflict countries is normally a long-term process that is nationally owned and should be context-specific. It is the sovereign right and primary responsibility of the country concerned to determine the national approach and priorities for security sector reform.

106. The Special Committee stresses that the sustainability of security sector reform depends on national ownership, the sustained support of the international community, including bilateral donors, and the engagement and commitment of the host countries and societies involved. The United Nations and the international community should avoid imposing external models of security sector reform and concentrate on strengthening the capacity of the host country to develop, manage and implement security sector reform through inclusive consultation processes at all stages of transition from peacekeeping to peacebuilding and sustainable development. The Special Committee believes that the United Nations approach to security sector reform must be flexible, adaptable and tailored to the country concerned.

107. The Special Committee notes that a number of United Nations peacekeeping operations are mandated to assist the host country with regard to its objectives and programmes on security sector reform. The Special Committee acknowledges the leading role of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in carrying out security sector reform activities in peacekeeping missions.

108. Given its mandate, the Special Committee can make a significant contribution in the area of security sector reform issues in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

109. The Special Committee takes note of the efforts to develop a United Nations approach to security sector reform, as it pertains to peacekeeping operations, outlined in the Secretary-General's report on the role of the United Nations in supporting security sector reform (A/62/659-S/2008/39).

110. The Special Committee recognizes the need for a holistic and coherent United Nations approach to security sector reform and better coordination of efforts between all partners, including bilateral donors, involved in supporting security sector reform activities in order to ensure comprehensive implementation in line with national strategies and good distribution of resources and activities, where appropriate, and to avoid duplication of effort. In this regard, the Special Committee notes that in some cases the United Nations may be requested by the relevant national authorities to facilitate the coordination of security sector activities in the field. The Special Committee recognizes the need for clear field mechanisms for coordination and implementation of security sector reform.

111. The Special Committee recognizes the need to establish a security sector reform unit in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions on the basis of the capacity approved by the General Assembly. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to elaborate guidelines and to provide advice for the implementation of an integrated approach to security sector reform in peacekeeping missions through consultations with Member States. The Special Committee stresses the importance of lessons learned and best practices in this regard.

112. The Special Committee believes that security sector reform must take place within a broad framework of the rule of law and should contribute to the overall strengthening of United Nations rule of law activities in peacekeeping operations, taking into account that United Nations activities and structures should not be duplicative. To that end, the Committee underlines the importance of coordination to ensure consistency and coherence in the United Nations.

113. The Special Committee notes that work on clarifying the relationship between security sector reform and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration is not yet completed and requests that this work be completed and presented to the Special Committee.

114. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of incorporating gender perspectives in security sector reform programmes.

5. Rule of law

115. The Special Committee recognizes that creating and sustaining stability in a post-conflict environment requires that the causes of the conflict be addressed and that local rule of law capacities be established from the beginning of a United Nations peacekeeping operation and strengthened. In this regard, the Special Committee recalls the importance of respect for the rule of law in the administration of justice as a vital contribution to building peace and justice and ending impunity.

116. The Special Committee recognizes the need for greater clarity and specificity in United Nations peacekeeping mandates on rule of law issues and requests that, where mandated, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations continue to ensure that rule of law and transitional justice are integrated into the strategic and operational planning of peacekeeping operations. Such mandate should ensure national ownership, particularly in supporting and assisting in building national capacity.

117. The Special Committee welcomes the progress made in assessing lessons learned from past experiences and options for strategies in the field of rule of law for ongoing and future United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to implement lessons learned where appropriate and continue to report on its implementation and efforts in this regard.

118. The Special Committee welcomes the development of guidance material for operational rule of law issues. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to brief Member States whenever relevant guidance material is initiated and to provide all information on progress.

119. The Special Committee calls upon the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, within its responsibility as a lead entity and where mandated in peacekeeping operations, to ensure cooperation and coordination among all relevant mission components in the context of rule of law and underlining the importance of a holistic and coherent United Nations approach.

120. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of adequate justice and corrections capacities, including in the field, to ensure a consistent approach in all rule of law policies and programmes.

6. Gender and peacekeeping

121. The Special Committee continues to emphasize the importance of ensuring full implementation of relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolution 61/143 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and encourages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to support local women's peace initiatives and the involvement of women and women's groups

in all activities related to the peace process and conflict resolution. In this regard, the Special Committee recognizes the importance of gender advisers to United Nations missions.

122. The Special Committee recognizes the contribution of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other United Nations entities in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women through, inter alia, the promotion of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and encourages them to continue such efforts in the future.

123. The Special Committee underlines the gravity of all acts of sexual and gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse, and stresses the importance of addressing the needs of all victims of such acts. The Special Committee emphasizes the need for regular and comprehensive training of United Nations staff and related personnel in gender-sensitive approaches in the context of their responsibilities and mandate and, where appropriate, for responding to cases of sexual and gender-based violence in a culturally sensitive manner and for the deployment of United Nations gender advisers to United Nations missions.

124. The Special Committee underscores the statement by the President of the Security Council of 24 October 2007 on women and peace and security (S/PRST/2007/40), in particular with regard to the request made to the Secretary-General to include in his reporting information on the progress in gender mainstreaming throughout United Nations peacekeeping missions, including data on the impact of armed conflicts on women and girls and on the special measures proposed and taken to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence.

125. The Special Committee notes with concern the continuing underrepresentation of women at senior management levels and among uniformed personnel in peacekeeping missions. The Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop a comprehensive strategy to increase the participation of women in all aspects and at all levels of United Nations peacekeeping operations, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 59/164 and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

7. Children and peacekeeping

126. The Special Committee recognizes the specific needs of children in armed conflict situations, including the particular vulnerability of the girl child, as specified in General Assembly resolutions 62/140 and 62/141 and Security Council resolution 1612 (2005). The specific needs of children should be taken into account in armed conflict situations, peace negotiations and peace arrangements.

127. The Special Committee recommends the inclusion, where appropriate, of specific child protection provisions in the mandates of peacekeeping operations and the deployment, on a case-by-case basis, of child protection advisers in all relevant peacekeeping operations, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1612 (2005).

128. The Special Committee requests that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations further elaborate the role and responsibilities of child protection advisers within peacekeeping missions and outline clear modalities for cooperation with

United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to ensure a comprehensive strategy of prevention and response with respect to all forms of violence against children.

129. The Special Committee recommends the designation of a focal point in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to liaise with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, within their respective mandates, in order to further the commitment and action of peacekeeping in the area of child protection.

130. The Special Committee welcomes the creation of the mandate for a Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children and underlines the importance of this official and the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict cooperating and coordinating their activities in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/141, taking care to avoid duplication in the discharge of their respective functions.

8. HIV/AIDS and peacekeeping

131. The Special Committee notes with concern that health-related issues, including HIV/AIDS, remain the leading cause of fatalities in the field. In this regard, the Special Committee takes note of the release of the outcome of the research called for in paragraph 163 of its report of 2007.[3]

132. The Special Committee recognizes the need to standardize and streamline the reporting of medical data across United Nations peacekeeping missions, including repatriation and mortality data, so that they can be made available to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations periodically for planning and strategic purposes.

133. The Special Committee believes that the United Nations should set the highest possible standards in protecting both peacekeepers and the local populations from HIV/AIDS. The Special Committee therefore welcomes the inclusion of HIV/AIDS advisers and focal points in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

134. The Special Committee reiterates the need for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure that all missions make available sufficient and accessible HIV/AIDS education, information, voluntary counselling and testing and related services for all United Nations peacekeeping personnel, with full protection of confidentiality and informed consent, pursuant to Security Council resolution 1308 (2000) and General Assembly resolution 60/262, the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS. Consideration should be given to using provider-initiated testing and counselling protocols at mission medical facilities and to streamlining existing testing procedures, as recommended by the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

135. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat and troop-contributing countries to continue to work in harmonizing pre-deployment awareness programmes and applying United Nations guidelines on medical clearance and medical conditions that preclude deployment.

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[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/61/19/Rev.1).

136. The Special Committee recommends that full use be made of the opportunities for peer education training programmes and that those schemes be coherent, consistent and adequately resourced.

137. The Special Committee commends outreach efforts by peacekeeping operations, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund and UNAIDS, to raise awareness among host communities, and the collaborative efforts to integrate HIV issues in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

138. The Special Committee recognizes the importance of annual briefings by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and UNAIDS on the progress made in dealing with HIV/AIDS in peacekeeping operations.

9. Quick-impact projects

139. The Special Committee welcomes the implementation of quick-impact projects by peacekeeping operations and continues to recognize the important contribution they make towards the successful implementation of mandates by addressing the immediate needs of local populations and building confidence in, and support for, peacekeeping operations.

140. The Special Committee recalls section XVIII of General Assembly resolution 61/276 and stresses that quick-impact projects are an integral part of both mission planning and the development and implementation of comprehensive strategies to meet the challenges facing complex peacekeeping operations.

H. Cooperation with troop-contributing countries

141. The Special Committee believes that there is a need to enhance the relationship between those who plan, mandate and manage United Nations peacekeeping operations and those who implement the mandates of those operations. Troop-contributing countries, through their experience and expertise, can greatly contribute to the planning process and can assist the Security Council in making appropriate, effective and timely decisions on United Nations peacekeeping operations.

142. The Special Committee underlines the need for full implementation of the provisions contained in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001) and the note by the President of the Security Council of 14 January 2002 (S/2002/56) in order to utilize optimally these mechanisms to forge a stronger relationship with troop-contributing countries. The consultations with troop-contributing countries should be held at all stages of a United Nations peacekeeping operation.

143. The Special Committee believes that such consultations should be held sufficiently in advance of the renewal or mandating of an operation by the Security Council so that the views of troop-contributing countries can contribute meaningfully to the decision-making process. It also believes that such meetings should be convened, including at the request of troop-contributing countries, according to the modalities set out in Security Council resolution 1353 (2001). It calls upon the Secretariat to improve information-sharing with troop-contributing countries and to ensure that copies of the reports of the Secretary-General on specific United Nations peacekeeping operations are circulated to the troop-

contributing countries in good time to allow for the holding of meetings with those countries before discussions are held among Security Council members. The Special Committee encourages all troop-contributing countries to participate actively in meetings with the Security Council and the Secretariat in order to achieve meaningful outcomes.

144. The Special Committee underscores the importance of better interaction between the Security Council Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations and troop-contributing countries, so that the experience and expertise of troop-contributing countries can be drawn upon when implementing and extending United Nations peacekeeping mandates. The Special Committee encourages the Security Council Working Group to implement the recommendations contained in its report of 13 December 2006 (S/2006/972).

145. The Special Committee emphasizes that any invitation by the Secretariat to meetings on establishing a new peacekeeping mission, or expanding an ongoing one, should be transparent and should include all troop-contributing countries.

146. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to consult with the troop-contributing countries in a timely manner when planning any change in the tasks, mission-specific rules of engagement, operational concepts or command and control structure which have an impact on the personnel, equipment, training and logistics requirements, in order to enable troop-contributing countries to give their advice in the planning process and to ensure that their troops have the capacity to meet the new demands. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to consult with the troop-contributing countries concerned when planning a drawdown of troops in any United Nations peacekeeping operation. The implementation of the drawdown should take place only after consideration of inputs from the troop-contributing countries and bearing in mind the situation on the ground. The Special Committee is of the view that existing procedures for interaction between troop-contributing countries, the Secretariat and the Security Council should be used to their fullest extent.

147. The Special Committee recognizes and welcomes the progress that the Secretariat has made in increasing its cooperation and consultations with troop-contributing countries through, inter alia, the briefings and meetings held during the past year, and looks forward to continued and improved cooperation in the coming year, including easy access to briefing material in written form.

148. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to produce predeployment threat assessments and share them with potential troop-contributing countries. The Special Committee recognizes the possible benefit to be derived from potential troop-contributing countries making reconnaissance visits to new missions before presenting their pledges to those missions. On this matter, more cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Department of Safety and Security and more interactions with potential troop-contributing countries are needed from the early stages of planning.

I. Enhancement of African peacekeeping capacities

149. The Special Committee recognizes the multiplicity of stakeholders involved directly and indirectly in African peacekeeping capacity-building. In this regard,

there is a need for coherent and effective coordination of support to the African Union. The Special Committee reiterates the African Union lead and ownership of its 10-year capacity-building plan, including donor coordination. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to continue to assist by providing an arena for such coordination and facilitating the broadening of the donor base.

150. The Special Committee reaffirms that, in strengthening African peacekeeping capabilities, the provision of logistical and financial reserves to facilitate the African Union's rapid deployment capabilities is of primary importance.

151. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of implementing the joint action plan for United Nations support to the African Union in peacekeeping in the short, medium and long terms, focusing primarily on collaboration in the areas of conflict prevention and peacekeeping, in particular assistance to the development of an African standby force. The Special Committee reiterates its recommendation that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations continue to support the African Union in ensuring commonality of procedures for joint planning and coordination with subregional economic communities.

152. The Special Committee requests that the established multidisciplinary African Union peacekeeping support team continue to serve as a coordinating point for all issues in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations related to cooperation with the African Union and that the Special Committee be informed regularly about its functioning and mandate, particularly as relates to the question of providing the much-needed technical support to the regional and subregional capacities.

J. Cooperation with regional arrangements

153. Bearing in mind the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee reaffirms the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies can make to peacekeeping, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate, and when the mandate and capacity of regional arrangements or agencies allow.

154. The Special Committee recognizes that regional arrangements have unique and complementary capacities to offer in cooperation with United Nations peacekeeping operations, and urges the United Nations to strengthen its operational linkages and partnership with regional arrangements. A strong partnership with regional arrangements in United Nations peacekeeping operations would have a positive impact on the optimal use of limited resources.

155. The Special Committee reiterates that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should continue establishing frameworks to operationalize practical cooperation and replace ad hoc arrangements with effective coordination mechanisms and measures between the United Nations and regional arrangements, as well as other donors and partners, with the objective of enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of international peacekeeping efforts. In developing this framework, the Committee recommends that full consideration be given to lessons learned from recent experiences.

156. The Special Committee notes the establishment within the Secretariat of a capacity for partnerships other than that dedicated to the African Union to serve as a

coordination point for all issues related to cooperation with regional arrangements and other multilateral partners engaged in matters relating to peacekeeping operations. The Committee believes that this new capacity could help avoid duplication or competition of efforts among multilateral institutions.

157. The Special Committee looks forward to a continued dialogue with the Secretariat to make the best use of the possibilities of employing regional arrangements' capacities under appropriate circumstances, as envisaged in the 2005 World Summit Outcome (General Assembly resolution 60/1), which recognizes the importance of forging predictable formalized partnerships between the United Nations and regional arrangements with a view to bringing the respective organizations closer together.

158. The Special Committee reiterates its support for the Secretary-General's proposal to move beyond discussion of possible frameworks for cooperation and to implement concrete modalities for operational cooperation in peacekeeping within the framework of regional arrangements.

K. Best practices

159. The Special Committee takes note of the ongoing review by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of technically feasible options for making guidance materials available to troop-contributing countries in the most efficient manner, and looks forward to being kept informed in a timely manner of the outcome of that review.

160. The Special Committee takes note of the steps taken to include a best practices officer, or a best practices focal point in peacekeeping missions, and looks forward to receiving a progress report on this issue.

161. The Special Committee notes the importance of developing best practices materials and integrating them into learning processes in the daily work of the staff members and looks forward to being kept informed on the progress in this matter.

L. Training

162. The Special Committee reaffirms the need to ensure that all personnel selected for peacekeeping missions have the required professional background, expertise and training. The Special Committee recalls, in this regard, the shared responsibility of the Member States and the Secretariat concerning the training of personnel to be deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations as stated in General Assembly resolution 49/37.

163. The Special Committee takes note of the Secretariat's work on the development of a United Nations peacekeeping training strategy, in consultation with Member States, and requests that the strategy be provided to the Special Committee.

164. The Special Committee takes note of the ongoing work of the Integrated Training Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations concerning the development of a set of minimum training standards and training modules, and

requests that a detailed progress report be submitted to it in a timely fashion before its next substantive session.

165. The Special Committee attaches high importance to training as United Nations peacekeeping demands increase, and notes in this regard the utility of tapping the experience of major troop contributors with considerable background in peacekeeping operations, including those which are more complex, and of encouraging and supporting them in providing a wide range of training opportunities to other countries, including the new and emerging troop-contributing countries.

166. The Special Committee supports the efforts of the Member States and regional arrangements, within their mandates, to enhance the capacity of peacekeeping personnel at peacekeeping training centres and encourages Member States to provide further assistance to these efforts. The Special Committee continues to support the efforts of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to provide those peacekeeping training centres, as well as national training focal points, with the necessary guidance for training United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

167. The Special Committee, acknowledging that multidimensional peacekeeping demands expertise and experience that most Member States cannot muster on a continuous basis, encourages cooperation in peacekeeping training among Member States.

168. The Special Committee takes note of the recognition process by the Integrated Training Service of courses conducted by peacekeeping and training institutions using the standardized training modules. Noting that this process has been suspended, the Special Committee stresses the need to develop in a timely manner an effective mechanism through which this activity can resume and to expand and speed up the recognition process.

169. The Special Committee looks forward to the further improvement of the standardized training modules used in the training of potential senior mission leaders. In this regard, participation of selected or pre-selected personnel should be given higher priority on new courses.

170. An integrated mission planning process training package should be put in place as quickly as possible and be made an integral part of the United Nations senior mission leadership training.

171. The Special Committee notes the steps taken by the Secretariat to enhance predeployment training capacity for police personnel and to facilitate bilateral training assistance as and when requested by Member States. In this regard, it looks forward to receiving more information on this issue.

172. The Special Committee calls for the finalization of the first specialized training modules for police and their dissemination to Member States and peacekeeping operations in the six official languages and the distribution of the standardized training modules, to be supplemented by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations training of the trainers courses.

173. The Special Committee takes note of the ongoing work in the development of the senior mission administrative and resource training and looks forward to receiving a progress report in this regard.

174. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to urgently develop training standards and operating guidelines for formed police units, in close consultation with Member States.

175. The Special Committee continues to call upon the Secretariat to further improve the quality of standardized training modules on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations, and upon the Member States to utilize them.

176. The Special Committee requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to continue to provide information, training materials and training modules on issues related to preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS, to be used during predeployment training of peacekeeping personnel.

177. The Special Committee supports the possibility of the Integrated Training Service developing an electronic learning tool for generic peacekeeping lessons to be used by Member States' national or multinational peacekeeping training institutions. Additionally the Special Committee encourages the Integrated Training Service to further evaluate the option of web-based training modules for all personnel employed in peacekeeping missions.

178. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts made by the Secretariat, in cooperation with Member States, to facilitate access by candidates from developing countries to online peacekeeping training courses. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to further contribute to the development of online peacekeeping programmes that are available in all United Nations official languages and are easily accessible by candidates from troop-contributing countries.

179. The Special Committee welcomes the "E-Learning for African Peacekeepers" programme of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the recent implementation of the UNITAR programme "E-Learning for Peacekeepers for Latin America and the Caribbean". The Special Committee appreciates the voluntary contributions that made it possible to offer courses in English, French and Spanish at no tuition cost, and encourages Member States to support the creation of French and Spanish language versions of the remaining courses. The Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNITAR to work together to promote the existing electronic learning programmes and to strive to ensure that the training material of the two organizations is complementary. Furthermore, the Special Committee encourages continued wide participation by African, Latin American and Caribbean peacekeepers in the relevant programmes. The Special Committee underlines that these worthy programmes are not a substitute for those under the responsibility of the Integrated Training Service.

180. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to translate peacekeeping training materials into all United Nations official languages.

181. The Special Committee reiterates its request for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to develop a comprehensive gender training strategy and looks forward to receiving information on this issue.

M. Personnel

182. The Special Committee recognizes the positive efforts made by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support with regard to balanced recruiting of staff in accordance with the Charter, the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules and relevant General Assembly resolutions, and urges the Secretary-General to continue his efforts. The Special Committee reiterates that in accordance with Article 101 of the Charter, in the employment of staff the paramount consideration shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and that due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. The Special Committee notes that the gender perspective should continue to be pursued in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions.

183. The Special Committee recalls General Assembly resolution 61/244, including paragraph 2 of section II and paragraphs 1 and 2 of section XI.

184. The Special Committee believes that appropriate representation in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and peacekeeping missions should also take into account the contributions by Member States. The Special Committee urges the Secretary-General to ensure a fair representation of troop-contributing countries when selecting personnel for such staff positions.

185. The Special Committee is concerned over the high number of vacancies in peacekeeping missions and requests the Secretariat to accelerate the recruitment of personnel to fill the vacancies with urgency.

186. The Special Committee recalls that English and French are the two working languages of the Secretariat. The Special Committee underscores the importance of effective interaction between Headquarters and the field to ensure efficient communications and the safety of all peacekeeping personnel. In this regard, it encourages the Secretary-General to take steps to employ staff in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support competent in using the Secretariat's working languages.

187. The Special Committee acknowledges that the interaction of United Nations military observers, police and civilian personnel with the local population is necessary. To that end, language skills constitute an important element of the selection and training processes. The Special Committee urges the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support to make further efforts in recruiting staff and experts on mission with language skills that are relevant to the particular mission area where they are to be deployed, to address specific requirements of peacekeeping operations. Therefore, it affirms that good command of the official language spoken in the country should be taken into account as an additional asset during these processes.

188. The Special Committee reminds the Secretariat that staff sent to United Nations field operations to conduct examinations for experts on mission, in particular examinations in language and driving skills, are to be certified and adhere to examination criteria based on the standard United Nations programmes.

189. The Special Committee notes the efforts made by the Police Division and the Office of Military Affairs in recruiting French-speaking peacekeepers, especially police officers, to address specific requirements of peacekeeping operations.

190. The Special Committee is concerned that the United Nations death and disability claims process for peacekeeping personnel is overly cumbersome, lengthy and lacking in transparency. The Special Committee notes also that discrepancies exist between the compensation benefits provided to experts on mission and those provided to contingent members. The Special Committee in this context recalls section X of General Assembly resolution 61/276 and requests the Secretary-General to ensure its full and timely implementation.

N. Financial issues

191. The Special Committee recalls all provisions of General Assembly resolutions, in particular paragraph 1 of resolution 61/279, reaffirming that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibility for administrative and budgetary matters. The Special Committee also recalls rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

192. The Special Committee again stresses that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions. It reaffirms the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963.

193. The Special Committee expresses concern over the significant amounts of outstanding reimbursements that the United Nations currently owes to troop- and police-contributing countries, which may adversely affect the capacity of this important tool for United Nations peacekeeping. The Special Committee also notes that there are still contributors that have not yet been reimbursed for their participation in various ongoing and closed missions, going back more than a decade. The Special Committee urges the Secretariat to continue to look into practical modalities to address this exceptional circumstance and to inform Member States at the earliest opportunity.

194. The Special Committee stresses the importance of ensuring the timely reimbursement of troop- and police-contributing countries for their peacekeeping contributions. In this regard, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to ensure the rapid processing and payment of reimbursements.

195. The Special Committee notes that the General Assembly resumes its consideration of the Secretary-General's proposal on the feasibility of the consolidation of peacekeeping accounts in the second part of its resumed sixty-second session.

196. The financial contribution by States Members of the United Nations is essential to the success of United Nations peacekeeping operations and timely and unconditional payments are important. The Special Committee recognizes that the views of contributors other than troop-contributing countries should also be taken into account, as appropriate. The Special Committee stresses the importance of

holding regular, routine consultations between all stakeholders and the main peacekeeping decision-making bodies.

197. The Special Committee welcomes the fact that the 2008 Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment agreed to its recommendations by consensus. The Special Committee emphasizes the importance of effective and transparent contingent-owned equipment inspections. The Special Committee acknowledges that troop costs have not been reviewed since 2002.

O. Other matters

198. The Special Committee recommends to the General Assembly that it hold a commemorative meeting at its sixty-third session, as described in paragraph 42 of document A/62/250, for the sixtieth anniversary of peacekeeping.

199. The Special Committee, recognizing that 2008 marks the sixtieth anniversary of peacekeeping, recommends the adoption of the following draft declaration by the General Assembly:

Draft declaration on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of United Nations peacekeeping

We, the States Members of the United Nations, recall with pride the awarding of the 1988 Nobel Peace Prize to the United Nations peacekeeping forces. Today, peacekeeping is the flagship activity of the United Nations, helping to restore peace and stability and bringing hope to millions of people in various regions around the world affected by conflicts. We pay tribute to the hundreds of thousands of men and women who, in the past 60 years, have served under the United Nations flag in more than 60 peacekeeping operations around the world, and we honour the memory of more than 2,400 United Nations peacekeepers who gave their lives in the cause of peace. We also commend the efforts made by United Nations and related personnel who are currently performing their duties in peacekeeping operations.

We reiterate our strong support for all measures undertaken to effectively promote the safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel. We, the States Members of the United Nations, reaffirm our commitment and willingness to provide full support to United Nations peacekeepers, to ensure that they are able to successfully and safely fulfil the tasks entrusted to them.

Annex

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2008 session

Members:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observers:

Andorra, Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Panama, Somalia, Viet Nam, Holy See, African Union, European Community, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Criminal Court, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), International Organization of la Francophonie, Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

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